

THE

## BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

Vol. XLVIII.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1853.

No. 13.

### EPIDEMIC OF 1852-53 IN NEWTON AND VICINITY.

ERYSIPELAS; MALIGNANT PUSTULE, DIFFUSE PERITONITIS, PHLEBITIS, IRRITATIVE FEVER.

BY EDWARD WARREN, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

In regard to the cases related in my last communication, I may observe that several medical gentlemen to whom I described them, stated that they had seen nothing of the kind.

I have just found the following note from Dr. John Ware, to whom I had written an account of the earlier and slighter cases. His note is so much to the point, that I hope he will excuse me for copying it. It is dated March 5, 1852. He says:—

“I can make nothing of the cases which you describe, except to call them influenza of a somewhat peculiar form. I think I have met with cases more or less like them. A———’s disease, which took him down about eight weeks ago, was not very unlike in its general character and course—particularly he had the foul breath, and foul perspiration. The severe symptoms did not, however, yield so soon. Then he had clear physical signs of pneumonitis—but he had little cough and no sputa, so that except for a very careful examination he would never have been suspected to have this disease. The first day of the attack he had a *redness* and *swelling* of the face, which made me apprehend erysipelas, but it vanished soon.”

In proceeding to the epidemic of this season, I should premise that erysipelas is endemic here; particularly in the form of erysipelatous or malignant pustule. In vol. xxxv., page 505, of this Journal, I gave an account of the severest case I have ever witnessed, of erysipelatous or cellular inflammation; and which occurred in 1842. It originated in a blister on the joint of the fore-finger. From dressing this patient’s hand and arm, I contracted pustules and sores, such as I have fully described in the paper alluded to, and again in this Journal vol. xlv., page 169. They have been also fully described by Dr. Peirson in the last volume, page 75, in relation to the case of Mr. Robert Rantoul, whose disease commenced in this form of erysipelas.

These pustules or sores have since been very common here. They are attended with an immense amount of constitutional irritation; often

confining the patient to his bed for a longer or shorter period ; and threatening the loss of the limb, if not of life.

These pustules are so little generally understood, that it is the common practice of physicians, especially when they appear upon the end of the finger, to treat them as felons, and cut down to the bone, or even to *scrape the bone*. This treatment invariably makes them worse.

Dr. Peirson thinks that these pustules are the result of animal poison. I have thought that they might be produced here, by handling rags ; or by something used in the manufacture of paper. But they often appear in subjects not at all exposed to such causes, and who reside at a considerable distance from the paper mills.

They often appear, also, on parts protected by the clothing ; and under such circumstances that they must be attributed to miasm. I have recently had an ample opportunity of observing a fine crop of these pustules upon the epigastrium. They arise in the manner stated by Dr. Peirson, very much resemble the pustules of chicken-pox, and itch and burn, when one pustule will generally take the lead, the others remaining stationary for an indefinite length of time. Sydenham compared the pain of erysipelas to the stinging of bees ; but conceive a bee with a long sting extending from this pustule to the heart and to the stomach, either through the hand and arm, or direct from the epigastric surface ; and also imagine a fine iron wire heated to a red (not a white) heat, boring by the side of this sting ; and you may form a slight conception of the pain of these tubercles. Now if one of these occur in a subject of extreme susceptibility, or previously exhausted by fatigue and mental anxiety, is it wonderful if death ensues ?

Another variety, perhaps also a pustule of this nature, differing only in situation, I will allude to. Some years since, a female domestic, of fleshy and gross habit, came into my family. Shortly after, she complained of violent pain in the ear ; and there appeared diffuse inflammation of the external ear and the meatus externus, attended with excruciating suffering, lasting for several days. It finally was relieved by a discharge from the meatus. Subsequently another member of my family had the same affection, attended with similar suffering.

It may well be imagined that these pustules are exceedingly alarming, both to patient and physician, when met with for the first time. The loss of the hand or arm ; and, in severer cases, that of life, is predicted. Yet I have never known a graver result produced by those which occur in this neighborhood, than stiffness of the finger-joint, which occurred in two cases only ; and a slight deformity of the thumb in one. Cases like that of Mr. Rantoul, and even the more rapid ones which we sometimes hear of, probably require at least three conditions for their development :—a strong constitutional predisposition, a state of the system such as is produced by long-continued anxiety and fatigue, and a constitution of the atmosphere peculiarly favoring the development of the disease.

A simple bread and milk poultice will often allay the irritation, as promptly as opium does a pain in the bowels. Nitrate of silver, tho-

roughly and promptly applied on the inflamed and sound parts beyond, arrests the inflammation, and quinine hastens the cure.

If sent for in the first instance, I apply the nitrate to the part affected, have it instantly followed by a poultice, and give tr. sulphat. quinin., from eight to sixty drops, according to the age of the patient and the severity of the attack, three times a-day. This has frequently cut short the disease within twenty-four hours. But as they are generally regarded at first as matters of very little consequence, and neglected, the cure is long and protracted. It is a peculiarity of these pustules, that, after being entirely healed, they are always ready to break out upon very slight provocation; like the wounds inflicted by splinters from the lance of an elfin king, in days of yore.

The first case, I will relate, bears a strong relation to the concluding one in my former communication.

CASE 1.—Somewhere about November, 1852, a patient, Mr. A., who resided about a mile and a half distant, called to see me with his grandson, a boy about 7 years old, whom he wished me to vaccinate. On my informing him that I had no vaccine matter, he said he hoped I could vaccinate him from matter taken from another grandchild two years before. He mentioned, also, that he called to pay his bill; a trifling one which he had paid about that same time. The lapse of time he seemed entirely to have forgotten.

I called at his house and vaccinated the child Nov. 23d; and on this, and my subsequent visit, Nov. 30th, Mr. A. was absent on his customary avocations. The vaccination did well, and there was no unusual soreness or inflammation.

Dec. 18th.—I was sent for to visit Mr. A. He came in from his barn, and I was informed that he had been for some time unwell, though he had continued to pursue his usual out-of-door avocations. He appeared dull and heavy, but could give no clear account of his ailments. His digestive functions were deranged; he was costive, and suffered much from earache. I prescribed laudanum for the ear, and a laxative.

20th.—I visited him again, and he sat down, intending, as I supposed, to give me an account of his symptoms; but he went off into a detail of a surgical case which happened some years since in Maine. When I came to inquire into his own symptoms, he could give me no clear account of them. His ear was better; but his throat was now troublesome. On examining the throat, I found very considerable inflammation and swelling of both tonsils. I prescribed a gargle of muriatic acid with confection of roses; Dover's powders at night, and advised his keeping house.

22d.—Finding that his throat did not improve, I commenced applying the nitrate of silver daily. The left tonsil suppurated, and he extracted the slough or core with forceps. A foul ulcer formed. The application of the nitrate gave temporary relief; but, on the whole, he continued stationary.

His breath was very foul, and I now learned that his perspiration, which was generally considerable at night, was also very foul, rendering the linen quite offensive. His pulse varied very much. It was small and

not generally accelerated, at my morning visit, but I was told he had fever turns during the day.

I always found him sitting up and dressed, but dull and silent, answering questions with great difficulty, as if from mental stupor. He objected to hearty food, at first from fear of its creating fever, and afterwards from the idea that he could not swallow it. When urged, however, he could swallow without difficulty. He made the same objections to the medicines, which, nevertheless, he took, though with great reluctance.

My treatment at first consisted in laxatives, when absolutely required by costiveness, the gargle and nitrate as I have mentioned, and nourishing food. To this I added elixir of vitriol in water, and on yellowness of the skin coming on, one grain of blue pill with half a grain of opium for a night or two. Subsequently I added quinine to the vitriol, and then omitted the vitriol, giving quinine only.

He had at times pain in the head; wandering pains in the limbs and bowels. There was about as much fulness of the abdomen and tympanitis as in typhoid fever. There was no tenderness on pressure, nor were there spots of any kind. The circulation was torpid, the pulse continued slow and small, and he had coldness of the extremities. There was great restlessness at night; and he could not sleep well during the latter part of his sickness, even under the influence of opiates. There was at no time any absolute difficulty of getting down food; and the swelling of the tonsils did not essentially obstruct the breathing, though the liquids were sometimes regurgitated through the nostrils. His diet, through the whole, was nourishing; and, during the latter part of the time, I rigidly enforced the regular administration of broth, beef-tea and wine.

He very gradually became feebler, and his nights still more restless. The heaviness of mind and failure of memory increased. Still he could answer questions correctly, and was perfectly rational when roused. He died January 16th, retaining his consciousness to the very last moment.

The affection of the ear in the commencement of the disease, and its attacking the throat on leaving the ear, together with many of the symptoms, show its relation to the other cases which I have related, and which I am about to relate. The question might be asked whether the disease of the mind, or at least of the memory, preceded, or whether it was induced by the disease in question?

Mr. Nunneley, in considering the question whether erysipelas attacks the arachnoid membrane of the brain, describes two kinds of inflammation affecting this membrane. One is violent, attended with full pulse, &c.; in the other, the mind is rendered dull, and there is a depression of the mental powers; the pulse is rapid, neither full nor hard, and all the secretions more deranged than in the former case, especially the abdominal. In the former the secretions are often suppressed; in the latter, perverted. This description, with the exception of the rapid pulse, corresponds very closely with the symptoms above described; and as we know the long duration of the pustules in many cases, there can be no difficulty in conceiving diffuse inflammation of the arachnoid of a chro-



nic character. Perhaps the most wonderful characteristic of erysipelas, is its great rapidity in some instances, and its extreme sluggishness in others.

CASE II.—Dec. 30th. I was called in the night to the grandchild, above mentioned, of Mr. A. I found him in the same room with the latter. He had been unwell with a cold for several days, and was now violently seized with symptoms of croup. He was a boy about 7 years old—large for his age. I found him in extreme distress; cough and croupy breathing were very strongly marked. Being a *grandchild*, I could not succeed in examining his throat, but I was enabled once to pass the probang with nitrate of silver. I gave him syrup of ipecac., which vomited him; and this was repeated several times through the night. I directed warm applications to be made to the throat, and the room to be kept warm and moist.

The next morning I found him greatly relieved. He now took an expectorant mixture of squills, ipecac. &c.; and in two or three days was perfectly well.

Here was a case, the infectious origin of which was evident, and greatly resembling case No. IX. in my former paper. In that case the patient was much younger, and more delicate both from sex and constitution, and already debilitated by previous disease. The superior vigor of the boy's system saved him.

CASE III.—Dec. 2d. A young married lady, who had a child of about five months old, after walking in the garden in a raw day, was suddenly seized with symptoms of a very violent character. She had severe chills, violent pain in the side, difficult breathing, &c. Her friends administered a purgative, a warm bath, mustard poultices, and subsequently an emetic of ipecac., and such other remedies as they could think of; but finding her not relieved, sent for me about twenty-four hours after her seizure.

Her appearance was unfavorable. Countenance sallow and anxious, forehead contracted as with pain, difficult breathing, and dry cough, with pain in the right side. The bowels were full; perhaps not more so than is common in typhoid fever. The physical signs indicated considerable difficulty upon the right side. The skin was moist, and the pulse rather rapid, but not full. It was not the pulse of common inflammation; but this might be accounted for by the course of medication which she had gone through.

I prescribed antimon. tart., gr. iv., in four ounces of water, a teaspoonful every four hours, increasing gradually to two teaspoonsful, if it produced no nausea. A blister to the right side; morphine at night.

Dec. 4th.—Found her much relieved; the pain in the side is entirely gone, and her breathing is easier. She has borne the antimony well, and it is now increased to two teaspoonsful.

5th.—Took two doses of the solution after I saw her, and some vomiting ensued; since which she cannot retain food, and has frequent alvine evacuations. Both nausea and the looseness of the bowels were readily checked by effervescing soda water, and a small dose of morphine. She now expectorates freely, her cough is easy, and she has no pain or

tenderness upon the right side ; but complains of pain in her left. Her voice is strong but interrupted, and her muscular strength good. I directed a blister to the left side ; an expectorant mixture ; morphine at night.

6th.—Found her nearly the same.

7th.—Cough continues easy, and expectoration free. Complaints of no pain. She lies on her back, with her head low ; and upon attempting to move, contracts her forehead in the manner seen in organic disease. But on being questioned says she has no pain of any consequence. There is no pain upon pressure. She has a mucous rattle in the throat, but temporary. Abdomen very full, and a great deal of flatus.

8th.—Mucous rattle gone. Appears as well. Asks if there is any chance for her. Had some wandering of mind last night, and great restlessness. She now lies with her feet drawn up in bed ; is restless, but complains of no pain. There is still no tenderness upon pressure. Cough and expectoration continue free. She has had free perspirations during her whole sickness.

9th.—Has had a bad night. A good deal of restlessness. This morning is more comfortable. Voice is strong, but somewhat interrupted ; muscular strength good. 10, P.M.—Pulse fluttering, restlessness increased ; mucous rattle in the throat has returned.

10th.—Early part of the night very restless. Had an opiate injection ; and this not relieving her, she had a quarter of a grain of morphine in a pill. After this she slept, and continued to sleep until morning ; readily roused, retaining her senses perfectly, and knowing those around her. In this state I found her on my visit ; and was informed that she had just been roused and had spoken to her husband. She was now, however, pulseless, and on attempting to rouse her, I found it impossible. She died during my visit.

After death, I found the abdomen immensely distended. There was at first much discoloration, but this disappeared and the body resumed a natural color.

In this case, despite of some bad appearances through the whole, the pleuritic symptoms were so much relieved, that I hoped for a favorable issue. The pain in the side had gone, the cough was easy, and expectoration free. There was nothing to call my attention particularly to the abdomen. Diffuse peritonitis, however, must have supervened one or two days before death.

[To be continued]

#### M. RICORD'S LETTERS UPON SYPHILIS.

Addressed to the Editor of *L'Union Medicale*—Translated from the French by D. D. SLAEBY, M.D., Boston, and communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

#### TWENTY-SECOND LETTER.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—I had a great desire to say a word to you upon the treatment of chancre, but according to the plan which we have adopted, I cannot in this connection enter into great detail.

Perhaps you will permit me to say to you first something upon the

prophylaxis, and upon the medical police, which has gained much ground during a few years, and especially since I instituted, and which has been adopted after me, the examination with the speculum in the special hospitals, and in the dispensary for the public health.

It is very certain that since this mode of investigation has been generally employed, we can observe a great improvement in the health of the public women. Thus, according to Parent-Duchâtelet, in 1800 one diseased woman was met with in nine; now we do not encounter, since 1834, but one in sixty. Consequently, the speculum has played its great part in this amelioration.

But if we wish to do the business well, we must, as I have always professed, visit the women every three days, without distinction of rank, whether they are in a house or en carte, whether they inhabit Paris or the Barrières. You remember that from the second day of an artificial inoculation, we may already have inoculable pus. Swediaur admitted that the chancre could be developed in twelve hours; it is necessary then that the visits should be frequent, and the examination always made with the speculum, in order that the inspection of public women should offer a certain guarantee.

I write designedly this word *guarantee*, for there are some who, after their adventurous amours, think that they have a right to reclaim indemnity from the administration. You believe, perhaps, that I am not serious; here is a fact which goes to prove to you my assertion:—A few years ago a merchant of Lyons came to me in a state of very great exasperation against the prefect of the police. He came to get a certificate stating that he had contracted a chancre in a public house that he believed *guaranteed* by the authorities. His intention was to follow it up with damages and interest. He did not know that the *tolerance* is a sort of brevet, which, like all brevets is without guarantee from the government.

I hasten to say that the ameliorations which are introduced every day in the inspection of prostitution, and that the zeal of our colleagues charged with the painful business of the dispensary of health, and of the hospital of Saint Lazare, will give more and more happy results.

That public women are a necessary evil, is generally agreed upon at the present day. I wish neither to combat nor to support this sad proposition; it is not the place to examine this here; but if the evil is necessary, it should not be extended, so far as the number is concerned, as a learned colleague of Belgium recently appeared to desire, but special attention should be paid to its quality.

In requiring that public women should not communicate disease, it ought to be well arranged so that those who frequent them, should not expose them to it. How shall we do? Must we institute an examination for the individuals who frequent them, and prevent them if they are diseased? But in addition to all the difficulties of such an institution, the danger which we might wish to prevent by this institution would be rendered greater, for in place of falling into a sink which the police can clean out, the filth would go elsewhere.

We cannot certainly think, at the present day, of establishing lazarets.

tos, quarantines, of demanding with a certificate of vaccination, a clean bill of health from the verole, as my friend Diday, of Lyons, wrote in a moment of praiseworthy philanthropy, a bill which should be demandable, and as indispensable as the passport, a bill without which one could not be admitted to any public function. Whatever the ingenious author of this proposition has said, the difficulties of its execution appear insurmountable.

There was a time, as you know, when the infected, banished from Paris, were condemned to the cord if they reëntered the city; an epoch when in the insane asylum of Bicêtre they whipped the patients at their entrance and at their exit. All this did not diminish their number; on the contrary, the whippers merited in their turn to be whipped: these barbarous measures have fallen into disuse.

It is doubtless necessary to submit to a rigorous inspection all those that we can reach, soldiers for example, to sequester all the patients upon whom we can have any authority; but a certain tolerance, the pardon of a fault quite often involuntary, and good hospitals with the succor which can be found in them at the present day, and which we can still ameliorate, herein consist the best means for a general prophylaxis, or those at least which shall tend to render the disease less and less grave.

Besides, all those who are acquainted with the sad conditions of the work and remuneration which is made to women in our present condition of society, have for a long time understood and proclaimed that herein was one of the most abundant sources of prostitution, and consequently of the propagation of syphilis. To ameliorate the condition of woman's labor, is then to make at the same time a work of humanity, of morality and of public health.

You remember what I said to you of the manner in which chancres are produced. It is necessary to remember it in order to avoid them. What science possesses most certain as regards the prophylactic treatment, is to avoid chancres. This appears a little *naïf*, but let the debauched remember that it is the truth. I am going to touch here upon a delicate subject, and one filled with dangers. It is still a question of morality and of medical deontology not yet resolved, to know whether the physician can and ought to give advice to preserve from evil those who are exposed to take it from a degraded source. I do not pretend to be more rigorous than the austere Parent-Duchatelet, who commenced this subject with the purity of intention which you are acquainted with in him. On the other hand, am I not re-assured by the nature even of the *Journal* which gives such liberal hospitality to my letters? I address myself to the learned, to physicians; and was it not you, my friend, who said, that science is chaste, even in a state of nudity? After all, be re-assured, I shall not do more than touch upon this ticklish subject.

There does not exist any sure and absolute preservative from the chancre; this is my declaration:—

If, in spite of this, one wishes to run the chance of it, some precautions can be taken. One must first bear in mind the precept of Nicolas

Marsa, so forcibly translated by the elder Cullerier—the relations ought not to be voluntarily prolonged; at this time one must be egotistical, as the grave Hunter remarked, but not egotistical after the manner of Madame de Stael, who called love the egotism of two.

Attention to the most minute cleanliness on the part of suspected persons, ought to be exacted in public houses. What we know for a long time past of the deposit of the virulent pus which may be kept in reserve in the genital organs of women, shows the necessity of this. It is a means of always preventing mediate contagion. I have told you that numerous experiments have shown that it sufficed to decompose the virulent pus in order to neutralize it. Alcohol in water, water mixed with a fifth part of Labarraque's disinfecting fluid, all the acids diluted with water so as not to be caustic, wine, the solution of zinc and of the acetate of lead, suffice to prevent the virulent pus from being inoculable; while that if this same pus is not altered, it suffices that the quantity should be excessively small, homœopathic, if you please, in order to act. M. Puche has told us, at the Hospital du Midi, that he had obtained effects from inoculation of a drop of pus mixed with half a glass of water.

The use of fatty substances is very useful, especially for medical men who practise touching upon dangerous parts. Astringent lotions which tan the tissues a little have often served to ward off the contagion.

But if the precautions of neatness are necessary before connection in the person who might infect, they ought to be minute after the act in the individual who is exposed.

There is a method which morality repudiates, and in which debauchees put much confidence, which doubtless often guarantees, but which, as a woman of much *esprit* has remarked, is a cuirass against pleasure, and a cobweb against danger. This mediate agent is often rotten, or has already been made use of; it is frequently displaced; it performs the office of a bad umbrella which the storm may tear, and which under all circumstances, guaranteeing badly from the storm, does not prevent the feet from getting wet. In fact, I have seen quite often ulcerations upon the root of the penis, upon the peno-scrotal angle, upon the scrotum, &c., in persons who had taken these useless precautions.

Many patients believe themselves safe from contagion in not terminating the venereal act. A lady who consulted me about herself, was much astonished in having communicated disease to her lover, inasmuch, said she, *that he did not finish*.

Some medical writers upon syphilis believe that the infection of the urethra particularly, is produced after the emission which made the vacuum, and from the horror which nature has of a vacuum. But numerous facts have taught me the contrary. The emission in fact ought to be considered as a powerful injection from behind forwards, and which thus cleanses the urethra; and if the urethral affections already so common are not more frequent, it is perhaps to this condition that it is to be attributed. Thus an old and excellent precept is that which recommends a speedy micturition after every suspicious connection. At one time, fortunately remote from us, they made use of jugglers.

The circumcision of the prepuce, the excision of the nymphæ which are too long, ought also to constitute an hygienic law as regards the genital organs, for these appendages greatly favor contagion.

I ask your pardon for this digression—but it is necessary that science should seek to take away from charlatanism the dangerous execution of a deceitful prophylaxis. We should be able always to indicate all which can favor the avoidance of contagion, and therefore the propagation of syphilis—not in order to protect or to favor libertinism, but to thereby guarantee virtue and chastity, which become too often the victims of it.

There remains to me now to speak to you upon cauterization as an abortive means, and as curative of chancre. But in order not to divide this subject, I shall make it the topic of my next letter.

Yours,

RICORD.

#### DR. KING'S ADDRESS ON QUACKERY—ITS CAUSES AND EFFECTS.

[Concluded from page 240.]

THERE are some medical societies in New England whose by-laws declare that it shall be deemed disreputable and unlawful for any fellow of such society to consult, directly or indirectly, with any person who is not a fellow—such offences being punishable with fine or expulsion. In some of the States, no one is allowed to practise medicine or prescribe for the sick until he has a diploma recorded on the books of the town in which he is located. In France, every new scheme that is rejected by the regular faculty is instantly suppressed. All these are salutary provisions, and tend to guard the public against imposition. The importance of medical societies has been too much overlooked. Besides State societies, district and village societies, with their quarterly or monthly meetings, should be everywhere established. These are schools in which every member may learn something, and by comparing himself with others keep regulated and posted up, and become an abler and better practitioner. Here a healthy emulation is encouraged, private animosities are dismissed, jealousies and heart-burnings are cured. Here the passions are hushed, the feelings chastened, and the tongue curbed. Some poet says, "Mountains interposed make enemies of nations, which else, like kindred drops, had mingled into one." Scripture, reason and all experience, assure us that a house divided against itself cannot stand. When any class of men wish to accomplish an object for the good of the whole, they find it necessary to form associations and act in concert. By such means, men who could do nothing as individuals, form powerful associations and accomplish important purposes with perfect ease. Political parties are always wide awake upon this subject; when an election is pending the cry is, organize, organize. Religious and moral associations act upon the same principle, and acquire power by similar means. Mechanics and laborers, without capital, and without influence as individuals, by forming associations and acting in unison acquire immense power. They can almost change the time of the sun's rising; they have already shortened the day from about fourteen to ten hours.

When they think proper, they raise their wages. Nothing is wanted to accomplish anything they wish, but perfect and unflinching concert of action.

But physicians seem to be heedless of all this, and are sometimes alarmed because a few puny, straggling quacks threaten to annihilate the whole profession. Let the physicians of the United States unite and act in concert as they ought to do, and quackery would perish as a viper beneath the foot of the elephant. But the timid, cringing, time-serving course pursued by far too many, tends to counteract the influence of the high-minded and honorable. It is said that a courageous man may look the lion out of countenance; whilst the braying of some long-eared animal might frighten the timid out of himself. The profession has lost much of its authority and influence by the conduct of men, who, from an excessive desire to please everybody, always endeavor to accommodate themselves to surrounding circumstances; men who think it safest for them at least to ride two or more hobbies at the same time. Every honorable physician should look upon such obsequious truckling with utter contempt; he should nail his colors to the mast, and, like Cato of old, disdain everything that his unrighteous enemies have power to offer. And the man who has not courage to do this had better, for the honor of his cause, give himself up at once and go home on parole.

The art of healing, as our profession is sometimes called, has always been too much shrouded in mystery. Its origin is probably nearly coeval with the human race, although very little is known of its early history. More than two thousand years ago we find her in Egypt the bantling of a superstitious priesthood, having darkness for her mantle and mystery for her swaddling clothes; and from that day to the present, this same evil genius has clung to her skirts and prowled around her temples, polluting her sanctuaries and dishonoring her disciples. Under its shadow quackery reposes. It is the ambrosia and nectar which sustains it, the banner under which its disciples rally, and the tower of refuge to which they fly. Science seeks to banish mystery from the world, and expose to open day every important truth; to strip medicine of every unhallowed covering, and show, not merely to physicians, but to the public as far as it may be understood, every physiological, pathological and therapeutic process. The patient and his friends should be allowed to know all that they can correctly understand of the nature and treatment of his case. The more genuine knowledge an individual possesses, the less is he liable to be imposed upon by false pretenders; but a knowledge of one science or art is no sure protection against fraud or imposition connected with some other science. There are men who are learned in everything else but medicine, and who become the unaccountable dupes of new and false medical schemes, and thereby do much mischief; for the public erroneously suppose that because a man understands the languages, mathematics, &c., he must of course know everything else. In general, the man who has the most plain common sense, who is accustomed to reason at every step he treads, is least liable to be suddenly carried away by new schemes. Those who are sound to the core, whose minds are thoroughly disciplined and trained to cor-



rectness of thought, are not easily led astray by phantoms. Such men were Jefferson and Adams, Calhoun and Clay, Story and Webster. Neither of these men ever swallowed a Brandreth's pill, or tasted Swain's Panacea, or drank Townsend's Sarsaparilla, or bathed in Davis's Pain Killer. No irregular practitioner ever entered their doors, or prescribed for their families. Their medical advisers were among the most learned and accomplished of the profession. No Botanic, Thomsonian, Hydro-path, Homœopath or Eclectic, was ever summoned to their sick chamber or wanted beside their beds. In their most trying moments they took advice only of regular physicians, and obeyed them implicitly. No others were allowed to moisten their burning lips or wipe the cold damp from their brows. Every one of these men has added his dying seal to the testimony of his whole life, against quackery of every kind, and in favor of regular scientific medicine. This is testimony of a high order, and it behoves the world to heed it. It stands out in bold relief, which no finesse can hide or sophistry destroy.

From the moment the tyro commences reading medical books, to the last hour of his practice, one continued course of study is required. It is indispensable. Besides standard works, every practitioner should take one or more medical periodicals. And to insure this, I will venture to make a single suggestion. The annual tax of each member is now two dollars; and as the number of members probably increases faster than the incidental expenses of the society, some part of this amount might be applied towards the payment for a periodical; and by doubling the tax, making it one dollar per quarter, I think every member of the Massachusetts Medical Society might be constantly supplied with some good weekly or monthly publication, free from further expense. The large number of copies required would enable the publisher to furnish the work at a low price, and at the same time perhaps the society might have some control over its pages. Such a course would carry to every member much useful and seasonable information, and enable him to keep himself always posted up.

Another matter deserves consideration. The public are shockingly imposed upon, and regular physicians disgraced, by scores of ignorant quacks, who, without any qualifications at all, affix M.D. to their signatures. If a man assumes the office of a petty magistrate when he has no such commission, he becomes liable by law to pay a fine or suffer imprisonment, although no harm may be done to any one, because such conduct would diminish the respect due to the civil magistrate and dishonor all civil authority. But governments are not thus careful to protect from insult the conservators of human life. There is no law that I know of in this State that hinders any one from adding M.D. to his signature, and holding himself out to the public as a graduate in medicine when he has no such credentials. This is a kind of counterfeiting that deserves to be punished in the most summary manner; and yet it is every day practised with perfect impunity. Ought not application to be made to the Legislature of this State for some act to suppress it? Is it not as important to protect human life from false pretence, as the goods of a merchant? In France such villains would soon find it ne-

cessary to abbreviate their signatures, or the government would abbreviate their liberties. It ought to be so everywhere. The science of medicine occupies a kind of middle station between the sciences that are fixed and positive, and those that are probable or presumptive; portions of it, only, are susceptible of clear and positive demonstration, while others are only reasonable and presumptive. Its knowledge has been chiefly derived from observation and experience, and is now the aggregate of what has been garnered up throughout all past time. It is necessarily progressive. The improvements in arts and sciences, and the refinements in social and domestic life, constantly increase its necessity and importance, and no imaginary limits can be set to either. Perhaps the science and practice of medicine may forever continue to improve; but from the nature of its office it must forever be in a measure imperfect. There are doubtless many diseases to which these animal machines are liable, which in some stages, at least, will forever defy all therapeutic means. It must fail once, at least, with every human being. But the science is no less necessary or important on account of its imperfections. All other institutions are also imperfect. No code of laws has ever been sufficient wholly to prevent crime. No tribunals have been able always to distinguish between the innocent and the guilty, nor do the councils and admonitions of good men induce all to become virtuous. But this I do say—cultivate and improve our profession, prune it of its cumbersome branches, make it what it ought to be, elevate it to its proper station, give it its just scope and influence; and in everything that is necessary and valuable in society, in all that concerns the happiness, usefulness and honor of men in this life, it will have no superior.

The followers and supporters of new schemes in medicine have always supposed that some mighty revolution was taking place, and that the old practice, as they have always called the only true system, was destined soon to be forgotten. So thought the followers of Serapion, Empiricus, Paracelsus, and a host of other pseudo-reformers of previous times; and so think now the friends and followers of each of the phantom schemes of the present day. But this is a grand mistake. All the baseless visions of ancient times have long since passed away as a dream of the night, and those which have cast their phosphorescent glimmerings upon the present age are fast passing into twilight. In those wild fields no century plants have yet been found; all belong to the cryptogamic class and mushroom genus.

From a review of the past and a contemplation of the future, I see no cause of alarm or discouragement, if the profession will only be faithful to its high vocation. Some of the ancients believed that the art of healing was a direct gift from heaven. This sentiment, although fabulous in its origin, should nevertheless be had in everlasting remembrance. It accords with the just dignity and importance of the office of the art. If physicians will do all their duty, no lasting ills can behead them. An immutable law declares that all that is false must pass away. The empty ravings of fanatic quackery must lash themselves into repose, and everything that is erroneous in our own system should

be cast off without regret, whilst all that is true and valuable will stand firm and unimpaired by time. Occasional whirlwinds and hurricanes must be encountered ; but even these help to purify the atmosphere and make it more serene. And if some darker hour shall come, when errors and mistakes, and falsehood and fraud, in one confused mass, threaten society with an universal deluge ; when reason seems to have left her throne to madness and folly ; when impostors have multiplied like clouds of locusts, and the whole horizon becomes filled with the coruscations of strange stars, even then every honest and true man may look around with unconcern, and say with the poet, " Truth, crushed to earth, shall rise again." Volcanoes may demolish mountains and bury cities in their dust and lava ; pyramids may crumble to atoms, ocean waves dissolve the continents, and time place his desolating hand upon all material objects ; but truth is eternal, and can never be overthrown.

#### REMARKABLE ACCIDENT FROM THE USE OF THE CANULE-DUPUYTREN.

BY JOHN H. DIX, M.D., BOSTON.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

A PROFESSIONAL friend has just directed my attention to an article in the *Courier des Etats Unis*, for April 3, 1853, copied from the *Courier de la Gironde*. The case is intelligently, though not technically detailed, and being not in itself improbable, I see no cause to doubt its truth. Without, however, vouching for its authenticity, I have made a translation of it, very much abridged for your pages, not merely on account of its singularity, but because it adds to various others, one, and a very striking objection to this mode of operation for obstruction of the lachrymal duct.

Notwithstanding its immobility by the wearer, the difficulty and uncertainty of its removal by the surgeon, and the chance of its becoming permanently obstructed by mucons deposits, the tube or canule-Dupuytren is still occasionally inserted in this country. Poisoning by an oxide of copper is not, perhaps, one of the possible results of it among us, the material being here, within my observation at least, invariably gold or silver. But, of whatever material it may be, the liability to swallow an indigestible tube an inch long and from a sixteenth to an eighth of an inch in diameter, is decisive as to the propriety of placing it in the lachrymal duct.

The case is as follows, omitting details and explanations, which to medical readers are unnecessary.

Madame Ch——, residing a short distance from Bordeaux, had for two years suffered from obstruction of the lachrymal duct. By advice of her physician, she went to Paris, where a headless tube, of the sort first proposed and used by Baron Dupuytren, was inserted. This tube was of copper, plated with silver. The result was satisfactory, and Madame Ch—— considered herself cured. Ten months afterwards she began to be again troubled with an overflow of tears, and at about the same time was attacked with pains in the abdomen and vomiting.

These symptoms continued, with increasing violence, and in defiance of medical treatment. She died, and on making the autopsy, in one of the intestines was found the *canule-Dupuytren*, divested of its silver plating, and coated with verdigris.

---

#### QUININE IN RHEUMATISM—PRIORITY OF PRACTICE.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

DEAR SIR,—In your editorial notice, April 6, you say that Briquet used the quinine in rheumatism as early as 1843. By reference to Dr. Reese's Journal, you will see, if my memory is correct, for I am unable to find the copy, that the case I reported occurred in 1844 or 43, and was peculiarly successful; but in looking over some fugitive cases I have upon record, I find my first use of the article occurred in the spring of 1842, but was not as satisfactory as I anticipated. I do not wish to deprive M. Briquet of a laurel; far from it. If he was the first on the other side of the water to call attention to it, he is entitled to the honor accruing. From the tenor of your article, I should say there was a wide difference in our doses; he used only 15 or 20 grains, while I exhibited it in much larger quantities; and I believe upon therapeutic principles I am correct. But, after all we have said, doctor, rheumatism is a very painful and intractable disease, which often defies all the suggestions ever made, from Hippocrates down to Briquet, or any other of the *quinine gentry*. I recollect Dr. Reese and myself had a spicy little talk about the matter in the Gazette, and he doubtless could give all the facts pertaining to it. How general the use of the remedy has become South, I cannot say, but pretty common, I suspect, from the fact that quinine is given in nearly everything, at least with a great many practitioners. I have seen it used in acute meningitis, and I have stood by the dying bed of a hale man, who was toxicologically quininized; but it was all done *à la science*, and it passed. *We pray for principles in medicine.* God send them in the 19th century.

In haste, your friend, H. A. RAMSAY.

*Thompson, Geo., April 17, 1853.*

---

#### THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, APRIL 27, 1853.

---

*Massachusetts Medical Society.*—On the next anniversary, the meeting will be held in Boston. Members generally are anticipating a pleasant reunion. A discourse, the annual business, and a dinner, comprise the ordinary doings. It will be seen by an advertisement in this Journal, that a committee has been appointed to adopt measures to increase the interest in these annual meetings, by means of scientific communications. It is hoped members will co-operate with the committee in bringing about the contem-

plated improvement. Whether the plan of erecting an edifice for the special accommodation of the society, will be revived, is quite uncertain. Some have supposed that a building for the purpose, located in this city, would centralize the society, and have a good influence on the attendance. It is easier if not more economical to go from any part of the Commonwealth to the capital, than to almost any other town in the State. Very many make it a point to transact various kinds of business on the same trip, and hence they prefer to go to the largest market. In short, from various considerations, it is believed that a majority of the whole prefer to have the annual meetings in Boston, and it is a fact that there are always more together when the anniversaries are in the metropolis. If the project of a hall, a favorite scheme of long standing, is ever to be undertaken, this is a period as favorable as any future day is likely to be. Real estate is dear, but there are no indications of its being cheaper; and besides, a suitable plot of ground cannot be found a few years hence without taking down buildings which are already productive property.

---

*Human Electricity.*—At a scientific meeting in this city, week before last, a distinguished clergyman of Boston stated that peculiar electrical phenomena had been observed in his family, which might possibly be produced or influenced by the locality of the house where he resides—a remarkably dry, and somewhat elevated spot. By sliding the feet rapidly across the room, and then immediately holding a finger to the burner, a spark from its extremity would light the gas instantly. On one occasion he blew out the flame and re-lighted the gas a second time with his finger, before leaving the chair on which he was standing. For the amusement of friends, he is frequently in the habit of performing this feat. Even his little children have learned the trick of charging themselves on the floor, for the purpose of giving a shock, by way of surprising those who are proper subjects for sport. The apartment in which these curious acts are accomplished, is carpeted in the ordinary manner, and a piece of backing covers the centre, which is thought to favor the speedy accumulation of electricity. If the air is clear, dry, and the weather cold, the spark is more certain and the effect strongly marked. Small cork balls are moved about marvellously by a current from the Rev. gentleman's digits.

---

*Colored Physicians for Liberia.*—Two colored natives of Boston, distinguished for their good characters and progress in a preparatory course, have been studying medicine a year or two under the patronage of the Massachusetts Colonization Society, with the express object of qualifying them to practise medicine and surgery in Liberia. Not being successful in gaining admission to witness hospital practice here, one of them proceeded to London, where his advantages have been of a superior order. The other is still in Boston, but losing precious time on account of the lack of opportunities for studying disease at the bed-side. They both wish for medical degrees, that they may not be denied the right to practise on their arrival in Africa. In the meanwhile, the society is in a quandary, not knowing what to do next. A purer act of benevolence was never undertaken, than the medical education of these colored beneficiaries. If Africa is to be civilized and Christianized, science and art must be introduced there. Physicians are needed very much in Liberia—a colony that has

been sustained by the American Colonization Society, till its independence has been acknowledged by many of the governments of Europe. What can be done for these young men to complete the course so far advanced? Their ambition is to go where the field of employment would be extensive, and where they can aid in the promotion of human happiness.

---

*Invalid Food.*—More interest has been exhibited in the arabica, or, as it is more commonly called, invalid food, than was anticipated when it was first introduced into this country. Many physicians have given in their adhesion, having ascertained that it fully comes up to the representations of its friends. Since Dr. Litchfield opened an agency for it in Boston, we have had occasion to become somewhat acquainted with its properties. An aged lady, very feeble and partially paralytic, bears the strongest testimony in its favor. When no other aliment in the ordinary catalogue of eatables relished, she found the arabica agreeable and particularly nutritious. This, to be sure, is only a single case, within our own immediate sphere of observation; but it corresponds so satisfactorily with the representations of others, that those who are prostrated by long-continued disease, are confidently recommended to make trial of this much praised dietetic regimen.

---

*Treatment of Diabetes.*—In the "Edinburgh Monthly Journal of Medical Science," for October last, it is stated that Dr. Gray, of Glasgow, had been induced to make trial of *rennet* in a case of diabetes, in the hope that, as this body converts sugar out of the body into lactic acid, it might be found to produce a similar change within the stomach, and the lactic acid thus generated might be eliminated from the system, or rather decomposed by the respiratory process. A teaspoonful of rennet was given three times a day. In eight days, the specific gravity of the urine was reduced to 1025, with but a trace of sugar; in twenty-five days, the quantity was four pints, and the density 1022.5, and no sugar could be detected. At the end of six weeks, the urine remained free from sugar, and the patient had so far improved in health and strength as to return to his work.

Dr. Wood, of Philadelphia, as appears by the last number of the Transactions of the College of Physicians of that city, has made use, with success in one case, of yeast as a remedy in diabetes. A teaspoonful, three times a day, was the prescription employed.

---

*Increase of Smallpox in Glasgow.*—The number of deaths by smallpox in Glasgow for the last three years has been as follows:—1850, 456; 1851, 618; and 1852, 584. During the same period, the number of cases and deaths in the Royal Infirmary of that city were as follows:—In 1850, number of cases, 78; deaths, 18. In 1851, cases, 163; deaths, 30. In 1852, cases, 115; deaths, 19. During six years between 1836 and 1852, in the same infirmary, the whole number of cases of smallpox admitted was 536. Of this number, 265 had been vaccinated, and 271 were unvaccinated. Of the vaccinated, 19 died; of the unvaccinated, 86. A very interesting and elaborate article, by Dr. John C. Steele, of the above-named Infirmary, is contained in the Glasgow Medical Journal, the first number of which is just published. From this article the above items have been gleaned, and we may make further extracts from it hereafter.

*Leave Taking.—Jefferson Medical College.*—Prof. Bache, of the Jefferson Medical College, spoke with energy and feeling to the medical graduates of that celebrated school, on bidding them farewell at the termination of the late course of lectures. He recommended them to peruse medical journals, and to join a medical society. If they follow this advice, the public as well as themselves will reap the advantage. The idea of keeping pace with science, and especially that of medicine, without being familiar with the intelligence which is periodically wafted over the world, is absurd. A merchant might as well neglect consulting the price currents, or shipping lists. The age is one of incessant activity, and those who do not read as they go, will certainly be left in ignorance behind. Dr. Bache holds up empiricism to detestation, while its pretensions are dissected by a skillful hand. "What would the captain of a vessel think of us," asks the speaker, "if we gave him a receipt for sailing from Philadelphia to the West India Islands? Suppose we should lay down, in our directions, the manner in which he should set his sails, and prescribe the position to be given to the rudder. What! he would exclaim, am I not to be influenced in the sailing of my vessel, by its constitution as a frame-work of timbers, by the strength with which these are put together; by its newness, or oldness, by the quantity and quality of its cargo; and, above all, am I not to take into consideration the direction and force of the wind, the nature of the sea I am navigating, the proximity of rocks and shoals, and a thousand other circumstances bearing more or less on the main object of the voyage, that of reaching the desired port in safety?" Dr. B. scarcely leaves a point untouched, which might be of importance in promoting the usefulness, respectability or medical reputation of a young physician. He is a safe adviser, and a judicious counsellor. There is much in the occasions of these farewell addresses, at the termination of years of study, when new relations to society are about being established, that calls into play the warmest feelings of the heart. It is a fitting time for making impressions; and when students are then addressed, by those for whom they entertain a profound respect, the admonitions received have a lasting influence.

*Western Lunatic Asylum.*—By the recent influx of reports from all sections of the Union, it is pretty conclusively shown that lunacy is not confined to New England. The Western Asylum is a Virginia institution, located at Williamsburg, of which John M. Galt, M.D., is medical superintendent. According to the report, the directors are of opinion that an appropriation from the State of \$30,000 for the support of the asylum the ensuing year will be necessary, besides \$2,000 to pay the travelling expenses of patients. Dr. Galt's annual report is a clear, well-digested document, creditable to him as a man of benevolence as well as science. He suggests some relief for idiots, who are probably sent to his humane care because people know not where else to send them. They have been culpably neglected throughout the country. New York and Massachusetts are making some atonement for an age of neglect, by creating retreats for their special benefit. Virginia ought to complete the circle of home charities, by at once providing an asylum for these unfortunate beings.

*The Virginia Medical and Surgical Journal.*—This new periodical has been received. The claims of its conductors on the profession of the Old Dominion are strong, and the new Journal should by no means suffer from



neglect, either in subscriptions or original communications. Drs. Otis and Thomas, in this specimen number, show a correct taste in the arrangement of articles, good judgment in selecting, and an ambition to meet the expectations of their many friends. Their messenger will appear monthly, and we have no doubt will abound with information always welcome to a practitioner. The price is five dollars a year. As opportunity occurs, we shall show by extracts how deserving this enterprise is of the hearty assistance and patronage of the brotherhood both in Virginia and the surrounding country.

**Homœopathic Agencies.**—M. M. Pallen, M.D., of the University of St. Louis, gave a farewell discourse before the medical graduates of the school on the first of March. It is distinguished for its keen and searching analysis of the homœopathic school of medicine. Dr. Allen cuts both ways, without the slightest appearance of respect either for the doctrine, or those who pretend to practise it. Yet he approves of inquiry. To condemn what is not understood, is absurd. He therefore has examined for himself, and decides, on mature investigation of the writings of Hahnemann, just as thousands have done before him, that the whole matter is a humbug. Were this the first article that ever had been published condemnatory of the pellicles, the sugar of milk and the like, it would be serviceable to make extracts from it. But it is not now necessary. If gentlemen commanding the artillery of the homœopathic publications allow him to escape by giving him small doses only in exchange, it will be some evidence that his propositions are unanswerable. We leave the discourse, with the conviction that the author is a racy, pungent commentator, when the full measure of his powers is exerted.

**Medical Institution of Yale College.**—At the annual examination of candidates for the medical degree, at the New Haven Medical School, in January last, fifteen were recommended and received their degree. The annual address to the candidates was given by Dr. Benj. Welch, of Salisbury. Prof. Benj. Silliman having given notice to the Board of Examiners that he had resigned his professorship, the following resolution was offered and unanimously adopted.

**Resolved,** That the thanks of the Committee of Examination in the Medical Institution of Yale College are due to Benjamin Silliman, LL.D. for the faithful and very satisfactory manner in which he has for forty years discharged the duties of Professor of Chemistry in this Institution; and we learn with unfeigned regret, that he has retired from the chair, which he has so long filled with such distinguished ability.

**TO CORRESPONDENTS.**—"Justice" on Medical Advertising has been received.

**DIED.**—In Philadelphia, Dr. E. Cooley, 82.—At Litchfield, Conn., Dr. Ashbel Wessels, 83.—At Bloomfield, Conn., Dr. John Tyer, 88.—At Louisville, Ky., Dr. Richard Ferguson, 76.

**Deaths in Boston** for the week ending Saturday noon, April 23d, 94. Males, 46—females, 43. Accident, 2—apoplexy, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 1—inflammation of the brain, 4—disease of the brain, 2—consumption, 22—convulsions, 5—croup, 5—cancer, 2—dropsy, 4—dropsy in the head, 2—infantile diseases, 11—erysipelas, 1—gravel, 1—scarlet fever, 6—typhus fever, 1—typhoid do., 1—hooping cough, 1—disease of the heart, 2—inflammation of the lungs, 9—marasmus, 3—mortification, 1—old age, 2—pleurisy, 1—suicide, 1—teething, 3.

**Under 5 years, 45—between 5 and 20 years, 7—between 20 and 40 years, 25—between 40 and 60 years, 9—over 60 years, 8.** Born in the United States, 71—Ireland, 21—England, 2. The above includes 7 deaths in the city institutions.

*Portland Medico-Chirurgical Society.*—This Society held its third Annual Meeting March 14, 1853, at the usual time and place. The meeting being called to order, by Dr. Robinson the President, the minutes of the previous meeting were read, and the society proceeded to the election of officers. Dr. James C. Weston was chosen *President*; Dr. C. S. D. Fessenden, *Vice President*; Dr. W. C. Robinson, *Recording Secretary and Treasurer*; Dr. H. T. Cummings, *Corresponding Secretary*; Drs. J. Houghton, S. B. Chase and O. E. Durgin, *Censors*. After the election had been completed, the report of the Secretary was read and accepted, and the Association listened to an interesting address by Dr. Chas. S. D. Fessenden, on the General History of the Science of Medicine, from the earliest age to the present day. The society then adjourned to the next regular semi-monthly meeting.

H. T. CUMMINGS, M.D.,  
*Corresponding Secretary.*

*Meteorological Phenomenon.*—During a storm of wind and rain, on the night of the 25th of March, a yellow, impalpable powder fell in this city and neighborhood, in such quantities as in some places to cover the ground. Being light, it floated upon the water, and formed a thick film along the sides of the gutters. The phenomenon gains interest from the circumstance that a similar precipitate occurred in Tennessee ten years ago (March, 1843), after a cold, backward spring, much like the present. Then, as recently, it was accompanied by a rain which succeeded a day of high southerly winds. The powder had very much the appearance of *flowers of sulphur*. It was combustible, and burnt with the odor of vegetable matter. The explanation generally given of it is, that it is the pollen of flowers wafted into our region by the winds from the South.—*West. (Louisville) Med. Journal.*

*Chloroform in Midwifery.*—At the late meeting of the New York State Medical Society, the use of chloroform in midwifery was discussed—a majority of those who took part in the discussion being in favor of its use. The subject was introduced by Dr. Burwell, who read a paper upon it. "He had administered chloroform, in one hundred and eighty cases—one hundred and twenty-two of which were greatly relieved, fifty-five partially, and three got no relief from its use. In seventeen cases, labor was terminated by the use of forceps—in one case by craniotomy—in one by turning. Eighty-eight of these cases were patients in labor for the first time. And in all these cases there had been not a single accident resulting from its use. He considered at length its effects upon the mental faculties, the muscular system, the pulse and respiration. He gave general rules by which to be governed in its use, and particular directions about the manner in which it should be administered, and the quantity to be given."

*Death of M. Orfila.*—M. Orfila, the celebrated French toxicologist, died at Paris on Saturday the 12th ult. of inflammation of the lungs. He had long filled the chair of Medical Chemistry in the Faculty of Medicine at Paris, and few of our professional friends who have recently visited the French capital, can fail to recall his kindness of manner and anxiety to impart information. M. Orfila has bequeathed a sum of 126,000 francs to various medical institutions, of which sum 60,600 francs are to be appropriated to the magnificent museum which bears his name. His funeral on the 19th ult. was attended by the *elite* of the Medical Faculty of Paris.—*Glasgow Med. Journ.*